

place for a reason, and I am sick and tired of it being violated. The Constitution is the foundation of this country, and anyone with common sense will tell you, that when you chip away at the very foundation of something, then the entire structure will crumble. That is what is happening to the USA. Stop letting the environmentalist run and control everything. If it were not for them, and the idiots running this country we would have already drilled in ANWR Alaska. Or better yet our own, gulf instead of China/Cuba/India. By the way, these are two suggestions for you to use.

Let us make this country back into what it was meant to be, a great place to live, and raise your children in. Stop selling out the United States of America.

NICK and KASEY, Boise.

I hope you do not mind, but I am an avid Glenn Beck listener, and I heard on his show yesterday that one of Senator Orrin Hatch's secretaries or spokespeople told one of his constituents that he would not support offshore drilling. The constituent was calling because he wanted to tell Senator Hatch that he supported it.

I am glad to see you asking directly for people's opinion and actually using some of the stories on your site.

Let me just say that right now my wife, our baby, and I do not have a car. Well, not one in working condition. See, I have a '94 Geo Metro, but it threw a rod earlier in the year and we just do not have the money to get a new car. I did find an engine for my Geo, though, so everything should work out once we get our economic stimulus check, except for the whole skyrocketing gas prices thing.

Right now we have to borrow my parents' truck if we need a car, which is very frequently. We are trying to get my wife into school to become a paramedic, but without transportation, we cannot do anything. Back when gas prices were cheaper, I had less of a problem borrowing people's vehicles, but these days I cannot stand to borrow somebody's car because a lot of the time I do not have the cash to put gas back into it.

Luckily I live really close to where I work, so I walk every day. My wife mostly just stays home with our baby, and both sets of our parents live close by. The only thing is, just the short distances that our parents have to drive to pick us up or take us to the store or whatever they do is too much. Even having smaller vehicles, like my Geo, does not seem to help that much. Before the thing broke down I was putting \$40-50 in to fill the thing, and it only has an 8-gallon tank.

Let me be frank. I like that you have asked people's opinions on this subject. High gas prices affect everything, as you can probably see. Food prices are going up because of the money it takes to transport. Anything that is made with petroleum (which is something that people rarely think about) like paint products and plastics are going up. Everything is going up because everybody uses gas to get from point A to B, so businesses let customers make up the difference by raising prices.

It is a pretty simple economic concept, but something that should be even simpler is supply and demand. I do not know why anybody at this point is against offshore drilling. And, I do not know why anybody is against nuclear energy. Sure, plenty of environmentalists are all bonkers about nuclear meltdowns and all that, but how many times in history has that ever happened? Nuclear waste from reactors is even becoming less of a factor.

The long and short of it is really that I support Senators that listen to the people. I think that you should try to get on the news

yourself and let people know that you want their opinion.

PHIL, Boise.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

140TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MARK'S A.M.E. CHURCH

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I wish to honor St. Mark's A.M.E. Church, which has been a part of Milwaukee's faith community for 140 years and serves as a shining example for the entire State of Wisconsin.

In 1869, eight eager Christian men and women envisioned a "Church of Allen." This church would uphold the ideals of Richard Allen, a freed slave who became the first free African to be ordained in the Methodist Church. The church's eight founders were led by Ezekiel Gillespie, a prominent figure involved in the Underground Railroad and the fight for suffrage for African-Americans in Wisconsin. The founding members became an official congregation on April 5, 1869, but the church was still missing a building to call home.

Within 2 months, a plot of land was purchased and the church embraced its new house of worship. Unfortunately, expenses mounted for nearly a decade and the founders were forced to sell a portion of their land in order to cover the debt. After a city condemnation required the razing of St. Mark's original church, both the clergy and laity insisted that a new edifice be erected in its place. In 1887, they began construction of a church which would last into the 20th century.

As the city of Milwaukee continued to grow and thrive, so too did the membership of St. Mark's. The increase in size prompted the creation of new churches in 1914 and again in 1953. After the Milwaukee Redevelopment Program of the 1960s, the construction of a highway ushered in the demolition of their 1953 structure. The congregation grew only stronger and its current church truly represents its lasting success.

Given the moniker, "The Friendly Church," St. Mark's has continually proven both its friendliness and its faith within Milwaukee. St. Mark's A.M.E. Church holds a special place in our State's history as Wisconsin's oldest African-American chartered church. St. Mark's leaders and parishioners have stalwartly defended their home and shared their devotion with our Milwaukee community, and this historic church will continue to thrive in the future. On this occasion of St. Mark's 140th anniversary, I want to offer my heartfelt congratulations.●

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 363. A bill to make determinations by the United States Trade Representative under title III of the Trade Act of 1974 reviewable by the Court of International Trade and to ensure that the United States Trade Representative considers petitions to enforce United States trade rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 132

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, a bill to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, and for other purposes.

S. 322

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 322, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the exclusion from gross income of parking and transportation fringe benefits and to provide for a common cost-of-living adjustment, and for other purposes.

S. 333

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction against individual income tax for interest on indebtedness and for State sales and excise taxes with respect to the purchase of certain motor vehicles.

S. 354

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 354, a bill to provide that 4 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 363. A bill to make determinations by the United States Trade Representative under title III of the Trade Act of 1974 reviewable by the Court of International Trade and to ensure that the United States Trade Representative considers petitions to enforce United States trade rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, the devastating job losses we are currently seeing across our economy have reaffirmed my conviction that Congress must redirect U.S. international trade policy toward preserving American jobs through stringent enforcement of